

Mellon Public Humanities Fellowships
Call for Applications 2024-2025

Due Monday, March 11, 2024

The Center for the Humanities invites applications for three Public Humanities Fellowships designed to provide graduate students in the humanities with experience outside of academia. By placing fellows in partner organizations around Madison including museums, hospitals, non-profits, community centers, and emerging businesses, the program facilitates the reciprocal sharing of resources and expertise and highlights the significance of the humanities both on and off campus. We aim not only to provide graduate students the opportunity to explore diverse career paths, but also to cultivate a practice of public humanities within their academic work.

We encourage applicants to imagine themselves in any one of our positions, regardless of their discipline. We have placed doctoral students in unexpected settings: a Music Theory student in a STEM education non-profit, a Geography student in a food collective, a Design Studies student in a historical society. Non-academic skills and experiences acquired prior to and concurrent with your degree are valued by partner organizations as equally as the transferable skills you have gained and refined during your education.

The Mellon Public Humanities Fellowships program is made possible with the essential financial support of the Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Overview

In 2024-2025 the Center for the Humanities will award three public humanities fellowships to doctoral students at UW-Madison (applicants may be at any stage of their degree). Recipients of this fellowship will receive all the benefits of a graduate project assistant (including tuition remission and health care) and be paired with an organization in Madison for a nine-month (academic year) residency. These residencies will give fellows the opportunity to use their humanities experience and expertise to develop new programs, expand existing ones, and translate their academic skills into the public sphere. The fellowship period is **August 19, 2024–May 16, 2025** and fellows will be in residence at their assigned organization 20 hours a week (excluding academic breaks) during that period.

[Full instructions for preparing your applications](#) are at the end of this document.

Available Positions

1. **WORT Community Radio**
2. **RENEW Wisconsin**
3. **Madison Public Library Foundation**

Eligibility and Criteria

This opportunity is open to UW-Madison PhD students in the humanities and related fields. We expect that applicants will bring to these positions a host of skills drawn from their scholarly training, including a strong research and writing background, creativity, and specific forms of field-based knowledge and expertise (in, for example, history, anthropology, art history, cultural studies, digital media, literature, languages, or film, among many others). Partner organizations will provide fellows the opportunity to undertake significant work on innovative programs and ensure that they receive appropriate mentoring.

Applicants should apply for a position, rather than to the program as a whole. The final and most important round of application review and interviews will be conducted by the partner organizations independently of the Center for the Humanities.

Applicants will be reviewed based on their academic accomplishments; relevant training and experience; and the relation between the fellowship and their professional goals.

For questions, email Danielle Weindling, Public Humanities Program Manager, at weindling@wisc.edu.

Please do not contact any of these organizations with questions about the positions.



Mellon Public Humanities Fellowship Application
Due Monday, March 11, 2024

Save the following application form, along with any additional required documents, as *one* PDF file. Name your file: **PHF 2425 App [your last name]**

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. Telephone Number:
4. Email Address:
5. Student ID number:
6. Department:
7. Field of Specialization:
8. Year in program and/or dates of Preliminary Examination(s) and admission to candidacy (if applicable):
9. Title of Dissertation (if applicable):
10. 100-word abstract of dissertation (if applicable):
11. Faculty director of your dissertation (if applicable):
12. Expected date of completion of PhD:
13. Briefly state your research interests:
14. Position to which you are applying:
15. Would you be interested in interviewing for a different fellowship position? If yes, please list up to one additional choice. If we present your application to your alternative, we will ask you to revise your materials to be addressed to that partner organization.

16. List the names, titles, institution, and email addresses of one reference who will submit a letter on your behalf. The reference letter should address the student’s academic record and progress; qualifications for the position; past work; and potential contributions to and benefits from a Public Humanities Fellowship. The reference letter should be submitted electronically as a PDF document and sent directly by your recommenders to: applications@humanities.wisc.edu with “**PHF Recommendation STUDENT NAME**” in the subject. Deadline is **Monday, March 11, 2024**.

Additional Materials

1) COVER LETTER (required)

This should be written for the specific position you have selected. Please address your letter to the selected organization. You should explain why you are applying for this position and how your academic and extra-academic experience prepares you for it.

2) CV (required)

3) Additional materials (optional)

Present any documentation of your transferable skills that enhances and expands on but does not duplicate your cover letter or CV.

Please submit all application materials electronically, in a single PDF document.

In the subject line, please put “PH Fellowship Application_ORG NAME_STUDENT NAME”

and send to applications@humanities.wisc.edu

[Register Here for Information Session: February 20, 2024, 3:00-4:00pm CT \(Zoom\)](#)

Applications due: Monday, March 11, 2024



WORT 89.9 FM Community Radio
Spanish Language Programming Fellow

Organization Description

WORT 89.9 FM is a nonprofit and noncommercial community radio station based in Madison, and broadcasting to south-central Wisconsin. Founded in 1975, the station is driven by hundreds of on-air and off-air volunteers, a small staff collective, a Board of Directors, and many listeners and listener-sponsors.

At the core of the WORT mission is the facilitation of community expression. We strive to challenge the cultural and intellectual assumptions of our listeners through unique and diverse local programming, and include audiences and programmers underrepresented in other media.

Almost all our 24/7 programming is produced by volunteer members of the community. Our deejays share music across all genres, our reporters cover local news impacting our community, our talk shows provide a forum for the discussion of public issues, and our public access programming allows individuals in the community a chance to host a radio show of their own. For more information about WORT, and to listen to our programming, visit our website at wortfm.org or tune into 89.9 FM.

Position Description

WORT seeks a Spanish Language Programming Fellow to develop pathways for recruitment and engagement in Spanish language news and talk programming on WORT.

While the vast majority of WORT programming is broadcast in English, programming is regularly available in several other languages throughout the week. Our weekly evening hour-long program, [En Nuestro Patio](#) broadcasts news in Spanish, prioritizing news from and about Latin America alongside Madison-based news and information.

[En Nuestro Patio](#) seeks to build a cohort of new programmers to carry the program into the next decade. Additionally, our English-language programs are increasingly looking to integrate interpretations and translations of Spanish-language news and interviews.

WORT seeks to strengthen its existing relationships with Hispanic, Latine, and other underrepresented communities so that we may develop a more robust pipeline of volunteers. The Fellow will therefore be responsible for further developing existing resources for Spanish-speaking

volunteers, assisting the training of incoming Spanish speaking volunteers, and expanding the capacity of existing Spanish-language programming.

In collaboration with WORT Spanish-speaking programmers and external community partners, the Fellow will advance a key part of our mission that seeks to "include audiences and programmers under-represented by other media."

Responsibilities

Support and expand capacity of existing Spanish-language programming

The Fellow will play an active role in producing our Spanish-language news program, En Nuestro Patio. This program airs on Tuesday evenings and is currently staffed by a limited number of volunteers, who work together as a group to decide the program's format and content.

The Fellow will learn how to produce programming and become familiar with rules and practices of audio journalism. They will learn the technical and editorial practices for producing high-impact community stories and interviews.

Once comfortable with these skills, the Fellow will assist the programmers to enhance the scope and variety of original material for the program. The Fellow will work with the WORT News Director to recruit and mentor new volunteers for the program. They may also coordinate regular segments on the program from contributors, including from appropriate community or media organizations.

The Fellow will develop additional digital avenues for distributing the program, such as through a podcast and website posting. They will also be responsible for developing the appropriate instructional materials and training for volunteers for this distribution.

Lead Spanish-language recruitment and engagement efforts

WORT has existing, longstanding relationships with a variety of community organizations and nonprofits serving Madison, Dane County, and Wisconsin. Our programmers routinely highlight events and information from these organizations.

Some of these organizations are dedicated to partially or fully serving south-central Wisconsin's Spanish-speaking community, and/or the broader Latine population. The Spanish Language Programming Fellow will leverage these relationships to better recommend coverage on our news and talk shows, and elsewhere in programming, such as in community calendars or on music programs.

The Spanish Language Programming Fellow will work with appropriate organizations to table events, present information or leading workshops on broader opportunities and techniques within audio production and media, and/or leading tours of the WORT studios.

The Fellow will also identify and develop new relationships with community organizations that are further outside of WORT's regular orbit. They will work to establish collaborations with existing

media and lead targeted volunteer recruitment toward Spanish-speaking communities, and the broader Latine community, in Madison. They will also contribute to efforts to include Spanish-speaking voices into English-language programming.

Develop resources and solutions for Spanish-speaking volunteers

The Fellow will build on existing Spanish-language written and multimedia instructional material to further train volunteers on audio recording, editing, news writing, voicing, and news ethics.

Together with WORT volunteers and staff, they will help interrogate the existing structures at WORT to identify other communication challenges. They will propose and help implement solutions to confront these challenges.

Minimum Qualifications

The ideal candidate is fluent in Spanish and English.

The ideal candidate is regularly available on Tuesday evenings, minimally from 6:30pm to 8pm.

Preferred Qualifications

The ideal candidate has a commitment to [WORT's mission](#) of democratic, community-based media. They are enthusiastic to mentor incoming volunteers and are eager to engage community members while representing WORT.

They are patient, culturally conscientious, excellent listeners and treat individuals and spaces with positivity. They respect various values, beliefs, attitudes, identities, and backgrounds. They are able to work collaboratively.

They are curious and interested in broadcasting or audio production, and are interested in taking an active role in live and pre-produced programming. They are comfortable behind a microphone, or willing to gain that experience. And they are passionate about undoing systems that uphold gatekeeping, especially in the news industry.

The ideal candidate need not have any background in radio or journalism and should expect to spend the first few months of this Fellowship gaining experience with reporting, interviewing, hosting, producing, and developing experience with the requisite audio equipment and software.

Additional Qualifications

Because WORT is a public space open to the community, including to minors, all new volunteers and employees are subject to a criminal background check. Please see our [background check policy](#) for more information.

The Fellow should expect to spend some of their hours at the WORT studios at 118 S Bedford Street, particularly when producing programming and mentoring volunteers. Other work may be completed remotely. Outside of Tuesday evenings, the weekday schedule for the Fellow is flexible and can accommodate mornings, business hours, or evenings.

The Fellow will be supported and supervised by the News Director, with weekly check-ins and more as needed. They will work closely with other WORT staff and volunteers.

For questions, email Danielle Weindling, Public Humanities Program Manager, at weindling@wisc.edu.

Please do not contact any of these organizations with questions about the positions.



RENEW WISCONSIN

Energy Access Research & Community Engagement Fellow

Organization Description

RENEW Wisconsin is a local nonprofit organization that promotes renewable energy in Wisconsin. We work on policies and programs that expand solar power, wind power, renewable fuels, local hydropower, building electrification, energy storage, and electric vehicles. Our vision is clean, renewable energy powering a strong, healthy, and vibrant Wisconsin. Our mission is to lead and accelerate the transformation to Wisconsin's renewable energy future through advocacy, education, and collaboration.

Position Description

RENEW is seeking an Energy Access Research & Community Engagement Fellow to work with our team on connecting individuals and communities with renewable energy programs. Our goal is to bridge the gap between policy and people by connecting communities with funding and opportunities through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The Fellow will directly support our environmental justice work with the goal of making clean energy more affordable, accessible, and available for all.

IRA and BIL provide opportunities for the advancement of clean energy in Wisconsin through tax incentives, grant opportunities, and loan assistance. IRA and BIL opportunities will help meet the goals of the Federal Government's [Justice40 Initiative](#), which is an environmental justice initiative focused on benefiting historically disadvantaged, marginalized, and underserved communities. RENEW's Energy Access Research & Community Engagement Fellow will support these goals on a local Wisconsin level through their work.

The Fellowship will take one of the two following tracks based on the Fellow's interests and expertise:

Track 1: Focus on low-income households

- Research IRA benefits for low-income households and create a report outlining benefits.
- Identify [three Justice40 communities](#) in Wisconsin that are energy-burdened and prepare fact sheets on important contexts, leaders, and organizations for engaging with these communities.
- Engage with local neighborhood organizations, advocacy groups, community members, and local business leaders to conduct a survey of community needs and potential barriers to clean energy adoption using interviews, surveys, and group discussions.

- Research state, federal, and outside organization supplemental programs and financing not covered in IRA and evaluate any possible existing programming or initiatives organizations that aim to overcome these barriers.
- Create a report for both internal and external use that compiles survey data and research and work with the communications team to create content to disseminate this information, including blogs, community profiles, and newsletters.
- Work with Communications team to develop educational materials to be distributed to the community and train community leaders to provide guidance on IRA benefits. These materials may include fact sheets, web pages, or videos.
- Identify gaps that cannot be met solely with education and outreach, such as financing or finding contractors and draft a strategic plan for future internal programs at RENEW to address these shortcomings. This may include funding programs/initiatives or technical assistance programs focused on IRA applications and pathways to renewable energy access.

Track 2: Focus on nonprofits

- Research and outline IRA benefits for nonprofits and create a report outlining benefits, such as new direct pay tax incentives.
- Identify [three Justice40 communities](#) in Wisconsin that are energy-burdened and prepare fact sheets on important contexts, leaders, and nonprofit organizations for engaging with these communities.
- Engage with local nonprofit organizations to conduct a survey of community needs and potential barriers to clean energy adoption using interviews, surveys, and group discussions.
- Create a report for both internal and external use that compiles survey data and research and work with the communications team to create content to disseminate this information, including blogs, community profiles, and newsletters.
- Research state, federal, and outside organization supplemental programs and financing not covered in IRA and evaluate any possible existing programming or initiatives organizations that aim to overcome these barriers.
- Work with Communications team to develop educational materials to be distributed to community nonprofits to provide guidance on IRA benefits and qualified projects and investments. These materials may include fact sheets, guidebooks, web pages, or videos.
- Identify gaps that cannot be met solely with education and outreach, such as financing, finding contractors, or identifying possible projects, and outline a strategic plan for future internal programs at RENEW to address these shortcomings. This may include funding programs/initiatives or technical assistance programs focused on IRA applications and pathways to renewable energy access.

The Fellow will have the opportunity to select which track that they would like to focus on for the duration of their fellowship and will work with the Communications Team and Deputy Director on creating a professional development plan at the start of their position.

Preferred Qualifications:

Our ideal applicant is a graduate student who is passionate about environmental justice and interested in increasing access to clean energy across the state of Wisconsin. Knowledge of community-engaged research methods and the renewable energy landscape in Wisconsin are a plus.

This Fellowship will provide the opportunity to expand communication skills, gain experience in nonprofit outreach, and develop community-focused programming.

The Fellow will be supervised and supported by the Communications Manager at RENEW, as well as the Deputy Director. The Fellow will work closely with the Communications Team, Program Manager, and Policy Team.

Preferred skills include:

- Collaborative work style
- Strong communication skills
- Experience in community research
- Ability to manage multiple ongoing projects
- Commitment to environmental justice
- Familiarity with project management and task-based software such as Todoist
- Experience designing and developing education programs or community engagement initiatives a plus

Expectations:

The Fellow should expect to spend their working hours in person at the RENEW office at 214 N. Hamilton with the possibility of some remote hours for research. The Fellow is expected to attend weekly all staff meetings and attend the RENEW annual Summit in February of 2025. The Fellow will work with the Deputy Director and Communications Manager to determine a weekly schedule as well as weekly check-in meetings. There is the potential for travel within and outside of Dane County for the execution of community engaged research and RENEW will work with the Fellow to arrange transportation and associated costs.

*For questions, email Danielle Weindling, Public Humanities Program Manager, at weindling@wisc.edu.
Please do not contact any of these organizations with questions about the positions.*



Madison Public Library Foundation

Public History & Engagement Fellow

Organization Description

Madison Public Library Foundation mobilizes the Madison community to continuously improve, promote, and support Madison Public Library. A Madison, Wisconsin nonprofit organization, the foundation fuels literacy, opportunity, and lifelong learning through equal access to free resources. Our work relies on charitable donations, corporate sponsorships, grants, fundraising event support, and other generous investments that help us Build Better Libraries Every Day. The Foundation's support and advocacy takes the library beyond city funding to a new level of excellence designed to reach the whole community.

Position Description

Madison Public Library Foundation (MPLF) seeks a **Public History & Engagement Fellow** who will work under the guidance of the MPLF Director, in collaboration with the Madison Public Library (MPL) on a project researching, documenting, and promoting the 150th Anniversary of public libraries in Madison. Madison Public Library will celebrate its 150th Anniversary on May 31st, 2025. The Fellow will be responsible for researching the history of MPL, preparing a public history of the organization, and creating plans for public engagement and celebration of the 150th anniversary. As part of this project, the Fellow will spend time learning about and understanding the internal workings of MPLF as well as its relationship to and role in the development of the Madison Public Library System.

Research the History of Madison Public Library

The nine-month Fellowship will begin with researching the history of Madison Public Library. Much of this research will take place through analyzing primary documents in the Local History Room at Central Library as well as in the holdings of community partners like Dane County Library System or the Wisconsin Historical Society. The research phase of the Fellowship will also involve meetings with past and present Library and Civic leaders, community partners, organizations, and members of the public to best represent the role the library plays and has played in civic life.

Prepare a Condensed Public History of Madison Public Library

The Fellow will also create a document outlining key historical moments in the history of MPL for use in future MPLF communications. This document should incorporate past milestones and times of increased community engagement. Particular attention should be paid to how the library has changed programs and services to better address community needs and changes to the idea of the library in public life. Attention will be paid to making this history sharable with the public and community leaders to show the impact of the library in Madison over the past 150 years.

Create a Public Engagement Plan and Community Celebration

The Fellow will then work with the Library and Foundation Marketing teams to create a plan for how to engage the public and library community in celebration of MPL throughout 2025. The plan will include recommendations and tools for public programming, the production of targeted marketing pieces, social media engagement, and incorporation into MPL strategic priorities. The Fellow will be the lead coordinator of a public celebration of the library system to coincide with the actual establishment of Madison Public Library on May 31st, 1875. The Fellow will work with the Foundation Manager and the Library Marketing team to create the event and organize logistics.

Responsibilities

- Research the history of Madison Public Library and put it in historical context, particularly as it relates to the City as a whole.
- Meet with Library and Foundation leaders past and present to identify key themes and efforts in the development of the library system.
- Work with the Madison Public Library Foundation on Library support efforts, which may include donor research and outreach.
- Work with the Madison Public Library marketing department to create marketing materials highlighting the MPL's 150th Anniversary, including posters, brochures, photo essays, and slideshows.
- Engage with leaders of other Library Foundations across the country to identify successful practices from other library celebrations and generate ideas about public recognition of the anniversary.
- Identify ways to integrate the Anniversary into the library patron experience, such as direct messaging a check out, library signage, or unique library cards.
- Document processes to ensure long-term institutional memory, including promotional timelines, event logistics, and partnership interactions.

Qualifications

- Interest in learning more about public libraries, donor relations, marketing, and event planning, and nonprofit management.
- Understanding of web-based media, social media, and the potential for digital engagement.
- Experience or demonstrated ability to create plans and manage timelines.
- Commitment to principles of racial equity, inclusion, and social justice, and the ability to work with people of all cultures and backgrounds respectfully.
- There is the potential for travel within and outside of Dane County for the execution of position responsibilities and MPLF will work with the Fellow to arrange transportation and associated costs.
- Candidates with a background or coursework in a related field such as history, marketing, library studies, or museum studies and/or experience with public humanities programming is preferred, but not required.

Expectations

- Given the nature of this position, the Foundation will prioritize on-site work at the Central Branch of Madison Public Library. Remote and off-site work will be allowed on a task-specific basis.
- To the extent that the Fellow's schedule allows, they will participate in bi-weekly staff meetings. In the alternating weeks, the Fellow will have a standing check-in and goal-setting meeting with the Executive Director. The Fellow may also be asked to attend meetings of the MPL and MPLF Marketing and Management teams as needed.

For questions, email Danielle Weindling, Public Humanities Program Manager, at weindling@wisc.edu.

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